(iv) Participation of private sector for setting up of freight terminals is being attempted. A pilot project near Gurgaon has been undertaken for this purpose,

(v) A scheme for running mini rakes has been notified in order to cater to demand for less than train load short lead traffic.

( ) No, Sir.

(a) Does not arise.

Hill puffer trains

†711. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to run the hill puffer trains;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) There is nothing known as hill puffer train on Indian Railways. Steam trains are already in operation on New Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling section. Proposals for introduction of steam trains on Neral-Matheran and Kalka-Shimla hill sections are under consideration. The decision will be taken subject to viability of the project and availability of funds.

Railway Zones without General Managers

712. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Zonal Railways, namely Eastern, South Eastern and Metro Headquartered in Kolkata are presently Headless, with no General Managers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether such a situation is affecting implementation of projects under these Railways; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Due to promotion of earlier incumbents, the posts of General Managers of Eastern, South Eastern and Metro Railways had fallen vacant. Pending empanelment/appointment of suitable eligible officers, General Managers of adjacent Railways have been made to look after the work of these Railways.

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation for West Bengal in Railway Budgets

713. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(b) the projects proposed and money allocated for West Bengal in 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 Railway Budgets;

(c) the status of their implementation and the details of constraints, if any, in implementation of these projects; and

(a) the steps contemplated to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The projects proposed and money allocated for West Bengal in Railway Budget 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. the status of their implementation and the steps contemplated to overcome them are given in the statement.